

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings.

1. (Currently amended) A process of producing a sterile foam for medical or veterinary use, said process comprising the following steps:
 - a) forming a physiologically acceptable foam for application to a body, said foam comprising a foamable gelling agent, and wherein said foam is treated with a first precipitant which comprises a polyvalent metal ion, and wherein said first precipitant is combined with said gelling agent before or during the foaming of the gelling agent and stabilises the gelling agent;
 - b) allowing the foam thus obtained to cure;
 - c) immersing the cured foam in a bath of a second precipitant which comprises a polyvalent metal ion to form a treated foam;
 - d) drying the treated foam; and
 - e) sterilising said dried treated foam by exposure to gamma-irradiation or ethylene oxide.
2. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said precipitant is packaged separately to said foamable gelling agent prior to forming the physiologically acceptable foam of step a).
3. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said gelling agent is alginate, collagen, a polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol methacrylate, carageenan gel, gelatin, a gum, or salt of any of these, or mixtures thereof.
4. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, salts thereof, or mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said gelling agent has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said sterile foam further contains a foaming agent.

8. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said foaming agent is cetrimide, lecithin, a soap, silicone, or a surfactant.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said foamable gelling agent further comprises an organic acid in an amount of 0.5 g to 5.0 g per 100 g of gelling agent.

12-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said treated foam is washed in a de-ionised water/glycerine mixture prior to drying.

23. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the treated foam is oven dried at temperatures below 100°C.

24. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein said second precipitant is a calcium citrate solution.

25. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said treated foam is washed.

26. (Previously presented) A foam obtained in accordance with the process of Claim 1.
27. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said first or second precipitant is independently a salt of calcium, zinc, copper, silver or aluminium; borates; glyoxal; or amino-formaldehyde pre-condensates.
28. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said first precipitant is calcium citrate or a calcium releasing water soluble glass.